

Appl. No. 10/676,955
Atty. Docket No. 8778CC
Amdt. dated May 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 24, 2005
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-58 (cancelled).

Claim 59 (new): An electric toothbrush, comprising:

a handle with a motor disposed therein that is operatively connected to a drive system, said drive system comprising a shaft;

a head having a longitudinal axis;

a first bristle holder disposed on said head comprising a first plurality of bristle tufts disposed thereon, wherein said first bristle holder is operatively connected to said drive system to oscillate said first bristle holder about an axis substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis;

a second bristle holder comprising a top surface and a second plurality of bristle tufts, wherein a plurality of bristle tufts of said second plurality of bristle tufts form an acute angle with said top surface of said second bristle holder, wherein said second bristle holder is operatively connected to said drive system to move said second bristle holder;

wherein at least one tuft of said second plurality of bristle tufts extends in a direction toward said handle;

wherein at least one tuft of said second plurality of bristle tufts extends in a direction away from said handle; and

wherein said second plurality of bristle tufts comprises a first bristle tuft and a second bristle tuft adjacent said first bristle tuft, wherein said first bristle tuft is shorter than said second bristle tuft.

Claim 60 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 59, wherein said first plurality of bristle tufts includes a first and second bristle tuft forming an acute angle with said top surface of said first bristle holder.

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Claim 61 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 60, wherein said first plurality of bristle tufts includes a third and a fourth bristle tuft, wherein said third and fourth bristle tufts are shorter than said first and second bristle tufts of said first plurality of bristle tufts.

Claim 62 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 61, wherein said third and fourth bristle tufts of said first plurality of bristle tufts are disposed substantially perpendicular to said surface of said first bristle holder.

Claim 63 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 60, wherein said second plurality of bristle tufts comprise third and fourth bristle tufts, wherein said third and fourth bristle tufts are disposed substantially perpendicular to said surface of said second bristle holder.

Claim 64 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 59, wherein said second bristle holder reciprocates.

Claim 65 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 64, wherein said second bristle holder reciprocates along said longitudinal axis of said head.

Claim 66 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 64, wherein said shaft rotates.

Claim 67 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 64, wherein said second bristle holder is disposed between said first bristle holder and said handle.

Claim 68 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 67, wherein said second bristle holder comprises a depending element which depends from a bottom surface of said second bristle holder, wherein said depending element is contacted by, but not fixed to said drive system.

Claim 69 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 68, wherein said first plurality of bristle tufts includes a first and second bristle tuft forming an acute angle with said top surface of said first bristle holder.

Claim 70 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 69, wherein said first plurality of bristle tufts includes a third and a fourth bristle tuft, wherein said third and fourth bristle tufts are shorter than said first and second bristle tufts of said first plurality of bristle tufts.

Claim 71 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 69, wherein said head comprises an aperture and a top surface, wherein said depending element is received through said aperture, and wherein said bottom surface of said second bristle holder contacts said top surface of said head.

Claim 72 (new): An electric toothbrush, comprising:

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a handle with a motor disposed therein that is operatively connected to a drive system, said drive system comprising a shaft;

a head having a longitudinal axis;

a first bristle holder disposed on said head comprising a first plurality of bristle tufts disposed thereon, wherein said first bristle holder is operatively connected to said drive system to oscillate said first bristle holder about an axis substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis;

a second bristle holder comprising a top surface and a second plurality of bristle tufts, wherein at least one bristle tuft of said second plurality of bristle tufts forms an acute angle with said top surface of said second bristle holder, wherein said second bristle holder is operatively connected to said drive system to move said second bristle holder;

wherein at least one tuft of said second plurality of bristle tufts extends in a direction away from said handle;

wherein said first plurality of bristle tufts includes a first and second bristle tuft forming an acute angle with said top surface of said first bristle holder; and

wherein said first plurality of bristle tufts further includes a third and a fourth bristle tuft, wherein said third and fourth bristle tufts are shorter than said first and second bristle tufts of said first plurality of bristle tufts.

Claim 73 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 72, wherein at least one tuft of said second plurality of bristle tufts extends in a direction toward said handle.

Claim 74 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 73, wherein said second plurality of bristle tufts comprises a first bristle tuft and a second bristle tuft adjacent said first bristle tuft, wherein said first bristle tuft is shorter than said second bristle tuft.

Claim 75 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 72, wherein said third and fourth bristle tufts of said first plurality of bristle tufts are disposed substantially perpendicular to said surface of said first bristle holder.

Claim 76 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 73, wherein said second plurality of bristle tufts comprise third and fourth bristle tufts, wherein said third and fourth bristle tufts are disposed substantially perpendicular to said surface of said second bristle holder.

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Claim 77 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 72, wherein said second bristle holder reciprocates.

Claim 78 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 77, wherein said second bristle holder reciprocates along said longitudinal axis of said head.

Claim 79 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 77, wherein said shaft rotates.

Claim 80 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 77, wherein said second bristle holder is disposed between said first bristle holder and said handle.

Claim 81 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 80, wherein said second bristle holder comprises a depending element which depends from a bottom surface of said second bristle holder, wherein said depending element is contacted by, but not fixed to said drive system.

Claim 82 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 81, wherein at least one tuft of said second plurality of bristle tufts extends in a direction toward said handle.

Claim 83 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 82, wherein said second plurality of bristle tufts comprises a first bristle tuft and a second bristle tuft adjacent said first bristle tuft, wherein said first bristle tuft is shorter than said second bristle tuft.

Claim 84 (new): The electric toothbrush of claim 82, wherein said head comprises an aperture and a top surface, wherein said depending element is received through said aperture, and wherein said bottom surface of said second bristle holder contacts said top surface of said head.

Claim 85 (new): A detachable head for use with an electric toothbrush, said detachable head comprising:

an elongate body comprising a head, a drive system, a longitudinal axis, and a first end opposite a second end, wherein said first end may be detachably coupled to the electric toothbrush;

a first bristle holder disposed on said head comprising a first plurality of bristle tufts disposed thereon, wherein said first bristle holder is operatively connected to said drive system to oscillate said first bristle holder about an axis substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis;

a second bristle holder comprising a top surface and a second plurality of bristle tufts, wherein at least one bristle tuft of said second plurality of bristle tufts forms an acute

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angle with said top surface of said second bristle holder, wherein said second bristle holder is operatively connected to said drive system to move said second bristle holder;

wherein at least one tuft of said second plurality of bristle tufts extends in a direction toward said first end;

wherein said second bristle holder further comprises a third plurality of bristle tufts, wherein at least one tuft of said third plurality of bristle tufts forms an acute angle with said top surface of said second bristle holder and extends in a direction away from said handle; and

wherein said third plurality of bristle tufts comprise a first bristle tuft and a second bristle tuft adjacent said first bristle tuft, wherein said first bristle tuft is shorter than said second bristle tuft.

Claim 86 (new): A detachable head for use with an electric toothbrush, said detachable head comprising:

an elongate body comprising a head, a drive system, a longitudinal axis, and a first end opposite a second end, wherein said first end may be detachably coupled to the electric toothbrush;

a first bristle holder disposed on said head comprising a first plurality of bristle tufts disposed thereon, wherein said first bristle holder is operatively connected to said drive system to oscillate said first bristle holder about an axis substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis;

a second bristle holder comprising a top surface and a second plurality of bristle tufts, wherein at least one bristle tuft of said second plurality of bristle tufts forms an acute angle with said top surface of said second bristle holder, wherein said second bristle holder is operatively connected to said drive system to move said second bristle holder;

wherein at least one tuft of said second plurality of bristle tufts extends in a direction away from said first end;

wherein said first plurality of bristle tufts includes a first and second bristle tuft forming an acute angle with said top surface of said first bristle holder; and

wherein said first bristle tuft of said first plurality of bristle tufts is shorter than said second bristle tuft of said first plurality of bristle tufts.